



the First United Methodist Church of Portland
CIRCUIT RIDER

February 1, 2017 ■ Volume 23, Issue 3 ■ www.fumcpdx.org

Worship
At
First Church

8:30 AM | Chapel

10:30 AM | Sanctuary



AS A PEACE CHURCH
we declare that we will be an
advocate for peace in our local
communities and world.

**AS A RECONCILING
CONGREGATION**
all are welcome to participate
in the full life of the church,
including all races, abilities, ages,
classes, gender identities, and
sexual orientations.

**AS A CREATION CARE
CONGREGATION**
we advocate for lifestyles and
social policies which bring
healing and renewal to our
precious Earth.

★ JOIN US FOR ★

THE 2017 FUMC ANNUAL

CHILI

COOK-OFF

Sunday, February 26
Noon in Collins Hall

FOR DETAILS SEE INSIDE



Also inside!
Light through the Darkness:
DISCOVERING GOD IN FILM

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From The Pastor



I was sitting in the Phoenix airport, awaiting my flight back to Portland when I heard a woman near me expressing disgust for those protesting on behalf of immigrants and refugees. "What are they doing at the airport – don't they have jobs?" I couldn't let this comment pass and responded, "Apparently what they have is a passion for justice and a concern for the nation." This led us into a deeper conversation about citizen engagement, public policy, and the fear we seem to be exhibiting on both sides of nearly every divisive issue facing our nation these days.

And there are so many of them - in the nation, in the world, even in our beloved United Methodist Church! Many people tell me they have given up listening to the news, reading Facebook posts, or even discussing world events because it all seems so complicated, conflicted, dire and depressing. I understand how easy it is to despair when we compare Christ's vision of God's Kin(g)dom of love and compassion with humanity's usual propensity toward greed and suspicion.

Yet we are Children of God. Jesus tells us, in Matthew 5:14 that we are the light of the world. And

then he says we are to let that light shine, to go beyond despair, to move through our fear to action for the sake of the most vulnerable among us. Because, as scholar Joanna Rogers Macy puts it, "Grace happens when we act with others on behalf of our world."



Two Palestinian refugees from Syria check their family names against a distribution list in Shatila Camp

The Bible is full of exhortations to care for the least among us. This past Sunday Pastor Jeremy printed out 50 such Scripture passages and posted them on the windows overlooking Beckham Courtyard, as reminders of our faith tradition. Harriett J. Olson, Executive Director of United Methodist Women issued this public statement recently: *"United Methodist Women takes to heart Jesus' commandment to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. Throughout our 150-*

year history we have carried this out by extending God's love to women, men, youth and children around the world, including immigrants and refugees. Today, we affirm this history by calling on the United States to protect men, women and children fleeing war, famine, drought or persecution. Our nation has a moral obligation to welcome refugees in numbers commensurate with the need, rather than excluding persons due to fear or xenophobia."

Grace for the immigrant, grace for the homeless, grace for children and youth, grace for elders, for women, for men, for strangers, for friends... grace for all of us will become a reality as we remember and begin to act like light in whatever darkness we encounter.

If you would like to help design a plan of action for First Church to let light shine for refugees and new immigrants in the greater Portland community, I would invite you to gather in Room 110 at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 7th. If you can't make that meeting but would like to participate please let me or Megan Jones know.

Grace & Peace
Rev. Donna

PRAYERS



UNITED
METHODIST
WOMEN
CALENDAR

CELEBRATION

Joyful news from the Kayser families. Julia and Drew Frisbie's healthy baby boy arrived Friday in Anacortes Washington. Ellis James Frisbie weight in at 7 lbs, 3 ozs. 20 inches.

PRAYERS OF SYMPATHY

Terry Connell's younger brother passed away and services were held in Cheyenne Wyoming.

Brenda Jacob, for the sudden loss of her niece Alicia.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN

We seek to support all those who are caught in the latest developments in the immigration issue. We pray for the divided families and those separated from love ones who are living in fear. We pray also for the religious communities who have lost facilities because of bigotry and hate.

DISCOVERING GOD IN FILM

The weekend of February 10-11 the Columbia District will be sponsoring the event, *Light Through the Darkness: Discovering God Through Film*. Though this event is geared toward laity, all are welcome to attend.

You will have the opportunity to be in conversation with Dr. Bryan Stone about film and theology: the first in a series of "digging deeper" events as our district engages in deeper dialogue about

Mary Ann Talbott, sister of Katie Schmidt, is awaiting a bone marrow test.

Mary Wargo recently had surgery.

Bill Rizzo has had pneumonia and has been placed on hospice. Robert Brown had foot surgery on Friday.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR

Lindsay Short (Paul Ingams daughter), Betty Guyer (Now home) Ted Lehman (now Home), Kris Smole, Rich Ottaviano, Gladys Shaw, Dave Qualls, Sally Townend, Frances Adams, Laurie Newcomer, Cal Brockman Sr., Laurie Newcomer and Steve Cromer's mother. Annie Calhoun, Dick Pomeroy, Marian Poindexter, Richie Muckridge, Jim Manuel, and Virginia Townend.

faith! This exciting weekend will begin with an evening session on Friday at the Baghdad Theatre. The conversation will focus on many favorite films that involve faith questions or commentary you may not have noticed before! Saturday's theme is "Postmodern Faith and Postmodern Film." We will spend the day learning about postmodernism in faith and screen through short clips and a feature film. Register at www.umoi.org.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12

TABITHA CIRCLE

Room 202 - 10:00 AM

Projects: Sew for UMCOR relief kits and crochet lap robes designed for men for the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Chairs: Kay Ward 503.915.7974 and Erin Riley 503.709.5469

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

RUTH CIRCLE

Room 202 - 12:00 PM

Program: "Delights of Tea"
Chair: Judy Moon
503.543.2220

PLANNING TEAM

Wednesday, February 22
Room 110 - 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Fireside Room - 12:00 PM

Program: Program with Planet Church. Creation Caring – Water
Chair: Peg Cook 503.452.7298

FROM THE COVER

Submit a pot of chili in our First Church Chili Cook off for a chance to win the Golden Ladle and be this year's First Church Top Chef! Entry forms can be found in the main office or online. Middle and high school students will be helping with set up, as well as providing cornbread and desserts. All proceeds raised will help fund Youth Summer Missions.



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THE CIRCUIT RIDER is a publication of First United Methodist Church,
 1838 SW Jefferson St, Portland, OR 97201-2496

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 Permit No. 1719

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 E-mail the church office at office@fumcpdx.org
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CLIMATE CHANGE... WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

With atmospheric CO2 on the rise and America's commitment to Climate Justice in question, a lot of people are wondering, 'where do we go from here?'. On Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5, Planet Church and United Methodist Women will host a climate workshop in the Fireside Room with Rev. John Pitney.



Rev. Pitney is recently retired from First Church Eugene, where he developed the reputation as one of the most passionate and articulate advocates for Creation in our denomination. Drawing on presentations he has made at United Methodist Women's Mission and many other places, he will challenge us to renew our commitment to our planet and our climate, and help us to chart a path forward for ourselves and our congregation.

Registration for the event is \$10, which will help defray the cost of meals. Registration will be available on the website, at Planet Church tables in Collins Hall, and in

the office. The workshop dates are as followed:

Saturday, March 4, 9am – 3pm
 Sunday, March 5, Noon – 2pm

The Fireside Room
 Lunch will be provided both days.

